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Aman Naimat

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YOUNG LAW FIRM, P.C.

4370 ALPINE RD.

STE. 106

PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028

EXAMINER

REYES, MARIELA D

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/663,296 | Applicant(s) NAIMAT ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Mariela D. Reyes | Art Unit 2167 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7,9,10 and 12-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 1, 2009 has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 4, 8, 11 and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claims have been canceled however they are still in the presented claims, identifying the claims as canceled without erasing the body of the claim could result in confusion. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (US PG Pub 2002/0052882) in view of Andrews et al (US PG Pub 2002/0077998) and Cook et al (US Patent 6,820,082).

With respect to independent claim 1:

Taylor teaches:

A method of evaluating data stored in a data source, the method comprising:

The data source being at least one of a database and a spreadsheet file; (Paragraph [0017], discloses that the data will be stored in a database that can be a relational database or a flat file)

Allowing a user to define a plurality of rules that operate on data formatted according to the data format, (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the user will define rules that will be used to organize and manipulate data depending on specific attributes) **wherein the rules are configured to assess a quality of data;** (Paragraph [0046] Lines 23-24, discloses that the data sets derived from the rules defined by the user will be used to derive statistical measures of data quality)

Mapping data from the data source to the data format; and (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the data will be mapped to a specific attribute to be used in the execution of the user defined rules)

Executing the plurality of rules on the mapped data to produce a set of analyzed data that allows evaluation according to an assessed quality of the data.

Art Unit: 2167

(Paragraph [0046] Lines 23-33, discloses that the data sets derived by the user defined rules will be used to analyze data quality of the data)

Taylor does not appear to explicitly disclose **allowing a user to define a data format, the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads; and depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.**

Andrews teaches **allowing a user to define a data format;** (Paragraphs [0079-0081], disclose that the sales leads will include data that will be divided into different formats depending on the organization it is directed to and that the user can define said data formats) **the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads;** (Fig. 4m discloses that the data includes the name and the email) **the data being contacts.** (Paragraph [06], discloses a database that stores a plurality of information of sales leads)

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **allowing a user to define a data format; the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales**

Art Unit: 2167

leads; the data being contacts so that the data can be manipulated and analyzed for commerce purposes. (As presented in Andrews)

The combination of Taylor and Andrews does not appear to explicitly disclose **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.**

Cook teaches **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.** (Column 5 Lines 41-67, discloses based on the rules sorting the data in either data that can be accessed (passed all the rules) or data that can't be accessed (failed all the rules))

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules** because this would allow users to receive only the information for which they have sufficient privileges and are interested on accessing.

With respect to claim 5:

Taylor teaches:

The plurality of rules that can be defined by a user include spatial rules, age/lineage rules, pattern-based rules, electronic validation rules and numeric operator-based rules. (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the user defined rules will break the data into groups based on common attributes, this is clearly a pattern based rules)

With respect to independent claim 9:

Taylor teaches:

A method of evaluating data stored in a data source, the method comprising:

Allowing a user to define a plurality of rules that operate on data formatted according to the data format, (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the user will define rules that will be used to organize and manipulate data depending on specific attributes) **wherein the rules are intended to assess a quality of data** (Paragraph [0046] Lines 23-24, discloses that the data sets derived from the rules defined by the user will be used to derive statistical measures of data quality) **and include spatial rules, pattern-**

Art Unit: 2167

based rules and electronic validation rules; (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the user defined rules will break the data into groups based on common attributes, this is clearly a pattern based rules) **the data source is either a database or spreadsheet file;** (Paragraph [0017], discloses that the data will be stored in a database that can be a relational database or a flat file)

Mapping data identifying a plurality of data from the data source to the data format; and (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the data will be mapped to a specific attribute to be used in the execution of the user defined rules)

Executing the plurality of rules on the data to score the data and produce a set of analyzed data usable to assess the quality of data in the data source.

(Paragraph [0046] Lines 23-33, discloses that the data sets derived by the user defined rules will be used to analyze data quality of the data)

Taylor does not appear to explicitly disclose **allowing a user to define a data format, the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads; and depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.**

Andrews teaches **allowing a user to define a data format;** (Paragraphs [0079-0081], disclose that the sales leads will include data that will be divided into different

Art Unit: 2167

formats depending on the organization it is directed to and that the user can define said data formats) **the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads;** (Fig. 4m discloses that the data includes the name and the email) **the data being contacts.** (Paragraph [06], discloses a database that stores a plurality of information of sales leads)

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **allowing a user to define a data format; the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads; the data being contacts** so that the data can be manipulated and analyzed for commerce purposes. (As presented in Andrews)

The combination of Taylor and Andrews does not appear to explicitly disclose **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.**

Cook teaches **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.** (Column 5

Art Unit: 2167

Lines 41-67, discloses based on the rules sorting the data in either data that can be accessed (passed all the rules) or data that can't be accessed (failed all the rules))

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules** because this would allow users to receive only the information for which they have sufficient privileges and are interested on accessing.

With respect to independent claim 13:

Taylor teaches:

A system for evaluating data stored in data source, the system comprising:

A network; a computer coupled network; a data source accessible to the computer over the network, the data source being at least one of a database and a spreadsheet file; (Paragraph [0017], discloses that the data will be stored in a database that can be a relational database or a flat file)

A user interface component configured to allow one or more users to define a plurality of rules that operate on, and are intended to assess a quality of, (Paragraph [0046] Lines 23-24, discloses that the data sets derived from the rules

Art Unit: 2167

defined by the user will be used to derive statistical measures of data quality) **data formatted according to the data format;** (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the user will define rules that will be used to organize and manipulate data depending on specific attributes)

Map data identifying a plurality of data from the data source to the data format; and (Paragraph [0040], discloses that the data will be mapped to a specific attribute to be used in the execution of the user defined rules)

A rules engine component configured to execute the plurality of rules on the mapped data to produce a set of analyzed data that allows evaluation of potential data according to an assessed quality of the data, (Paragraph [0046] Lines 23-33, discloses that the data sets derived by the user defined rules will be used to analyze data quality of the data) **the rules engine further configured to provide at least a portion of the analyzed data set to the one users.** (Paragraph [0046] Lines 23-33, discloses that the analyzed data will be presented to the user)

Taylor does not appear to explicitly disclose **allowing a user to define a data format, the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads; and depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.**

Art Unit: 2167

Andrews teaches **allowing a user to define a data format;** (Paragraphs [0079-0081], disclose that the sales leads will include data that will be divided into different formats depending on the organization it is directed to and that the user can define said data formats) **the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads;** (Fig. 4m discloses that the data includes the name and the email) **the data being contacts.** (Paragraph [06], discloses a database that stores a plurality of information of sales leads)

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **allowing a user to define a data format; the data format including at least a first name, a last name, an email address and a selection of the data source; the data being sales leads; the data being contacts** so that the data can be manipulated and analyzed for commerce purposes. (As presented in Andrews)

The combination of Taylor and Andrews does not appear to explicitly disclose **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules.**

Cook teaches **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which**

Art Unit: 2167

the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules. (Column 5 Lines 41-67, discloses based on the rules sorting the data in either data that can be accessed (passed all the rules) or data that can't be accessed (failed all the rules))

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **depending upon an outcome of the execution of the plurality of rules, sorting the analyzed data into at least a first bucket in which the mapped data passed each of the executed plurality of rules and a second bucket in which the mapped data failed to pass each of the executed plurality of rules** because this would allow users to receive only the information for which they have sufficient privileges and are interested on accessing.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (US PG Pub 2002/0052882) in view of Andrews et al (US PG Pub 200/0077998), Cook et al (US Patent 6,820,082) and Mary Jo Nott (New Product News, Published May 21st, 2002)

With respect to claim 3:

The combination of Taylor, Andrews and Cook does not appear to explicitly disclose that **the data source is a heterogeneous data source.**

Nott teaches that **the data source is a heterogeneous data source.** (Paragraph [001], discloses that Cognos allows corporate decisions to be based on data from SAP and non SAP data sources, therefore the collected that comes from

Art Unit: 2167

heterogeneous data sources, this helps in the collection of data from different databases in an enterprise and allows flawless communication between the heterogeneous database and the 360 degree view of business operations)

It would be obvious for someone with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement that **the data source is a heterogeneous data source** because this helps in the collection of data from different databases in an enterprise and allows flawless communication between the heterogeneous database and the 360 degree view of business operations.

Claims 6, 7, 10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (US PG Pub 2002/0052882) in view of Andrews et al (US PG Pub 200/0077998), Cook et al (US Patent 6, 820,082) and Fagin et al (US Patent 6,014,664).

With respect to claim 6:

The combination of Taylor, Andrews and Cook does not appear to explicitly disclose **the step of executing the plurality of rules comprises scoring the mapped data.**

Fagin teaches **the step of executing the plurality of rules comprises scoring the mapped data.** (Column 1 Lines 8-11, discloses that rules that will have scores assigned to them so that data can be assigned scores)

It would be obvious for someone with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **the step of executing the plurality of rules comprises scoring the mapped data** because this would help in the fact that then the user could have an idea of which results are more important.

With respect to claim 7:

The combination of Taylor, Andrews and Cook does not appear to explicitly disclose that **after executing the plurality of rules, allowing a user to rank data from the set of analyzed data according to its score.**

Fagin teaches that **after executing the plurality of rules, allowing a user to rank data from the set of analyzed data according to its score.** (Column 8 Lines 54-47, discloses that the user will create the scoring for each rule therefore the user is the one responsible for the ranking of the data)

With respect to claim 10:

The combination of Taylor, Andrews and Cook does not appear to explicitly disclose that **executing the plurality of rules comprises scoring the mapped data.**

Fagin teaches that **executing the plurality of rules comprises scoring the mapped data.** (Column 1 Lines 8-11, discloses that rules that will have scores assigned to them so that data can be assigned scores)

It would be obvious for someone with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the cited references to implement **executing the plurality of rules comprises scoring the mapped data** because this would help in the fact that then the user could have an idea of which results are more important.

With respect to claim 14:

The combination of Taylor, Andrews and Cook does not appear to explicitly disclose that **the user interface component allows users to associate a score with each defined rule and wherein the rules engine component scores the mapped data during execution of the plurality of rules.**

Fagin teaches that **the user interface component allows users to associate a score with each defined rule and wherein the rules engine component scores the mapped data during execution of the plurality of rules.** (Column 1 Lines 8-11, discloses that rules that will have scores assigned to them so that data can be assigned scores)

With respect to claim 15:

The combination of Taylor, Andrews and Cook does not appear to explicitly disclose that **the user interface is further configured to allow a user to rank data from the set of analyzed data according to its score after the rules engine executes the plurality of rules.**

Fagin teaches that **the user interface is further configured to allow a user to rank data from the set of analyzed data according to its score after the rules engine executes the plurality of rules.** (Column 8 Lines 54-47, discloses that the user will create the scoring for each rule therefore the user is the one responsible for the ranking of the data)

Response to Arguments

The following arguments are in response to the remarks filed on June 17th, 2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

With respect to claim 1:

Applicant argues **“Andrews does not teach that the user-definable data format includes a selection of a database or a spreadsheet file as the data source on which the selected rules are to be applied”** Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Andres (Paragraph [06]) discloses accessing a database using SQL statements, this SQL statements to access data inherently select a database or database table that is requested for access.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mariela D. Reyes whose telephone number is (571) 270-1006. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 7:30- 5:00 East time.

Art Unit: 2167

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John R. Cottingham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2167

/Mariela D Reyes/
Examiner, Art Unit 2167
May 7, 2009